

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 89993-17547

Title: HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN A MULTI-NATIONAL EXERCISE

Operation/Exercise Name: COOPERATIVE PARTNER 98 Observed: 29 Jun 1998

Originator: MSSG TWO SIX

POC: MAJ JH SORG Commercial: (910)451-1700 DSN: 7512151

5. (U) OBSERVATION:

During the Partnership for Peace exercise, Cooperative Partner 98 in Romania, the sustaining of "partners" became an immediate concern for the Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group (MSSG), as the participating nations of Ukraine, Georgia, and Bulgaria arrived without any field rations or basic messing capability.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

The unexpected requirement to provide field rations for the partner nations did not burden the MSSG as there was an adequate supply of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) onboard the United States Ship Trenton. It was the immediate nature of the requirement which did present a bit of a surprise as the PFP forces in the field had no food and the MSSG was not scheduled to land for another 36 hours, nor was it expected to support them at all. The providing of United States MRE rations was the simplest method of keeping all hands and nations operationally ready to effectively participate in the multinational cross training. All costs for rations were borne by COMNAVSOUTH at the end of the exercise.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

The MSSG may be required to provide basic sustainment and support for its multinational partners. In the case of Cooperative Partner 98, the host nation was quick to request that the United States provide support to the partner nations vice taking the responsibility upon themselves.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The MSSG must conduct deliberate planning so it is prepared to support multinational forces that cannot support themselves.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

None.

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